

Message

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**From:** Wilson, Jennifer [wilson.jenniferA@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 7/11/2018 2:56:48 PM  
**To:** Shoven, Heather [shoven.heather@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Lee Berquist) ((recd 7/9)) OPEN. Reporter requests results of water sampling EPA conducted in early May in central Wisconsin, near Juneau County. DDL not indicated.

Thank you for sending this.

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**From:** Shoven, Heather  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 11, 2018 8:11 AM  
**To:** Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Wilson, Jennifer <wilson.jenniferA@epa.gov>; Burdett, Cheryl <burdett.cheryl@epa.gov>; Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Lee Berquist) ((recd 7/9)) OPEN. Reporter requests results of water sampling EPA conducted in early May in central Wisconsin, near Juneau County. DDL not indicated.

Thanks Pat. That makes sense. Please let me and Jenny know if you need anything else from us when you finalize response. I'm looking forward to our discussion with Linda at 1pm today. Have a great morning.

Best wishes,  
Heather

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*Heather A. Shoven  
Chief, Section 1 (Enforcement and Direct Implementation)  
Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5  
(312) 886-0153*

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**From:** Kuefler, Patrick  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 11, 2018 7:51 AM  
**To:** Wilson, Jennifer <wilson.jenniferA@epa.gov>; Shoven, Heather <shoven.heather@epa.gov>; Burdett, Cheryl <burdett.cheryl@epa.gov>; Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Lee Berquist) ((recd 7/9)) OPEN. Reporter requests results of water sampling EPA conducted in early May in central Wisconsin, near Juneau County. DDL not indicated.

Jennifer – I am accepting all the comments except about the DW wells. The reporter appears to be asking about the 41 geoprobe samples so I am going to answer accordingly.

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**From:** Wilson, Jennifer  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 9:27 PM  
**To:** Shoven, Heather <shoven.heather@epa.gov>; Burdett, Cheryl <burdett.cheryl@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Lee Berquist) ((recd 7/9)) OPEN. Reporter requests results of water sampling EPA conducted in early May in central Wisconsin, near Juneau County. DDL not indicated.

Hi Everyone,

I am commenting below in purple.

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**From:** Shoven, Heather  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 6:18 PM

**To:** Burdett, Cheryl <[burdett.cheryl@epa.gov](mailto:burdett.cheryl@epa.gov)>; Kuefler, Patrick <[kuefler.patrick@epa.gov](mailto:kuefler.patrick@epa.gov)>; Maraldo, Dean <[Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov](mailto:Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov)>; Bahr, Ryan <[bahr.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:bahr.ryan@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Wilson, Jennifer <[wilson.jenniferA@epa.gov](mailto:wilson.jenniferA@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Lee Berquist) ((recd 7/9)) OPEN. Reporter requests results of water sampling EPA conducted in early May in central Wisconsin, near Juneau County. DDL not indicated.

Thanks all. I am cc'ing Jenny for her review as well for GWDWB.

Best wishes,  
Heather

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*Heather A. Shoven*  
*Chief, Section 1 (Enforcement and Direct Implementation)*  
*Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch*  
*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5*  
*(312) 886-0153*

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**From:** Burdett, Cheryl

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 5:50 PM

**To:** Kuefler, Patrick <[kuefler.patrick@epa.gov](mailto:kuefler.patrick@epa.gov)>; Maraldo, Dean <[Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov](mailto:Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov)>; Bahr, Ryan <[bahr.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:bahr.ryan@epa.gov)>; Shoven, Heather <[shoven.heather@epa.gov](mailto:shoven.heather@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Lee Berquist) ((recd 7/9)) OPEN. Reporter requests results of water sampling EPA conducted in early May in central Wisconsin, near Juneau County. DDL not indicated.

Hi Pat:

Looks good.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Burdett

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**From:** Kuefler, Patrick

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 5:47 PM

**To:** Burdett, Cheryl <[burdett.cheryl@epa.gov](mailto:burdett.cheryl@epa.gov)>; Maraldo, Dean <[Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov](mailto:Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov)>; Bahr, Ryan <[bahr.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:bahr.ryan@epa.gov)>; Shoven, Heather <[shoven.heather@epa.gov](mailto:shoven.heather@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Lee Berquist) ((recd 7/9)) OPEN. Reporter requests results of water sampling EPA conducted in early May in central Wisconsin, near Juneau County. DDL not indicated.

Ok see below

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**From:** Burdett, Cheryl

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 2:53 PM

**To:** Kuefler, Patrick <[kuefler.patrick@epa.gov](mailto:kuefler.patrick@epa.gov)>; Maraldo, Dean <[Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov](mailto:Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov)>; Bahr, Ryan <[bahr.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:bahr.ryan@epa.gov)>; Shoven, Heather <[shoven.heather@epa.gov](mailto:shoven.heather@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Lee Berquist) ((recd 7/9)) OPEN. Reporter requests results of water sampling EPA conducted in early May in central Wisconsin, near Juneau County. DDL not indicated.

Hi Pat,

#7. I am concerned with saying that we planned the inspection sampling with WDNR, I would say that we communicated our plans to conduct groundwater sampling in Juneau County with WDNR and UW-Stevens Point and asked for information on sampling done in the area and the results.

Cheryl, I talked to a Professor at UW-Stevens Point about nitrate data he had collected, but I can't remember if I told him we would be doing sampling. Did you tell UW-Stevens Point that we were sampling? I just want to make sure this statement is factually accurate.

#8. I would say that we communicated with WDNR with our plans to conduct groundwater sampling and other agencies to requested hydrology information on the area.

Sincerely,

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**From:** Kuefler, Patrick

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 2:35 PM

**To:** Burdett, Cheryl <[burdett.cheryl@epa.gov](mailto:burdett.cheryl@epa.gov)>; Maraldo, Dean <[Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov](mailto:Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov)>; Bahr, Ryan <[bahr.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:bahr.ryan@epa.gov)>; Shoven, Heather <[shoven.heather@epa.gov](mailto:shoven.heather@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Lee Berquist) ((recd 7/9)) OPEN. Reporter requests results of water sampling EPA conducted in early May in central Wisconsin, near Juneau County. DDL not indicated.

See below for proposed responses below. Correct anything that is not accurate

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**From:** Burdett, Cheryl

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 1:55 PM

**To:** Maraldo, Dean <[Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov](mailto:Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov)>; Bahr, Ryan <[bahr.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:bahr.ryan@epa.gov)>; Kuefler, Patrick <[kuefler.patrick@epa.gov](mailto:kuefler.patrick@epa.gov)>; Shoven, Heather <[shoven.heather@epa.gov](mailto:shoven.heather@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Lee Berquist) ((recd 7/9)) OPEN. Reporter requests results of water sampling EPA conducted in early May in central Wisconsin, near Juneau County. DDL not indicated.

Hello Dean, Ryan, and Pat:

I have few questions regarding the Reporter's questions below:

1. Should we send this e-mail to Allison Lippert and explain to her that we are in process of putting all of our groundwater data with some drinking water data on an EPA website that will have a link, so that the public and view the data?
2. Are we going to send answers to the other questions about next steps, "stating that we are analyzing the data at this time and working with WDNR on what we need to do about providing alternate water for people in the town of Armenia with high nitrates in their contaminated water?"

Please let me know if I should put something together and send it to all of you for review and then send our response to Allison Lippert?

Sincerely,

Cheryl Burdett

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**From:** Singer, Joshua

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 10:42 AM

**To:** Holst, Linda <holst.linda@epa.gov>; Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Burdett, Cheryl <burdett.cheryl@epa.gov>; Baltazar, Debbie <baltazar.debbie@epa.gov>

**Cc:** Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>

**Subject:** FW: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Lee Berquist) ((recd 7/9)) OPEN. Reporter requests results of water sampling EPA conducted in early May in central Wisconsin, near Juneau County. DDL not indicated.

Water Division,

Please see the questions below from Lee Berquist at Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and let me know your suggested responses. Thank you.

1. I would like to get the results of water sampling EPA conducted in early May in central Wisconsin near Juneau County and an update on how the agency is responding to concerns about water quality in the region. I have a link to my story - <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2018/05/04/epa-investigates-possible-groundwater-contamination-central-wisconsin-worries-grow/579422002/>. Main point here is inform the public of your efforts and any followup by the EPA. The results are still being compiled. We hope to make the data available in the near future.
2. What were the results of the 41 samples taken? EPA is still evaluating the results received so far.
3. Have you communicated those results to state or local officials, or citizens in the area? We have communicated preliminary information to WDNR. We have also communicated drinking water sampling results to the residents whose homes we sampled. We anticipate making the data available to the public in the near future.
4. What is the next step by the EPA on this matter? EPA is completing analysis of the data received and will work with WDNR to determine next steps.
5. Are there plans for additional tests, or investigate further the source and extent of groundwater contamination? EPA currently has no plans for additional sampling in the area.
6. Has the EPA asked experts in Wisconsin to provide additional information that will help the agency with its determination? EPA is working with WDNR to evaluate the data.
7. For example, have you asked the DNR or UW-Stevens Point for past sampling of groundwater contamination, such as for nitrates? EPA consulted with WDNR to plan the sampling event including obtaining some existing data.
8. Have you asked experts in the state for information on local hydrology conditions, such groundwater flow to help in your work? EPA did consult with WDNR to plan the sampling event which included obtaining information on local hydrology.

Again, I am not sure why we would say planning but more like reached out to ask for information regarding hydrology, sampling data etc.

Lee Bergquist  
Reporter  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



Office: 414.224.2169  
Mobile: 414.588.0244

Francisco Arcaute  
US EPA R5 press office  
312 886 7613

Cell Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

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**From:** Singer, Joshua  
**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 3:43 PM  
**To:** Kelley, Jeff <[kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Arcaute, Francisco <[Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov](mailto:Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov)>; Rowan, Anne <[rowan.anne@epa.gov](mailto:rowan.anne@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Lee Bergquist) ((recd 7/9)) OPEN. Reporter requests results of water sampling EPA conducted in early May in central Wisconsin, near Juneau County. DDL not indicated.

I can handle this one since it is for the Water Division. Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 9, 2018, at 3:17 PM, Kelley, Jeff <[kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov)> wrote:

Josh, you've been working on this issue, haven't you?

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**Jeff Kelley**  
*Director, Office of External Communications*  
*U.S. EPA Region 5*  
*ph: 312-353-1159*

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**From:** Arcaute, Francisco  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2018 3:10 PM  
**To:** regionalpress <[regionalpress@epa.gov](mailto:regionalpress@epa.gov)>; Kelley, Jeff <[kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov)>; Rowan, Anne <[rowan.anne@epa.gov](mailto:rowan.anne@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Lee Bergquist) ((recd 7/9)) OPEN. Reporter requests results of water sampling EPA conducted in early May in central Wisconsin, near Juneau County. DDL not indicated.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Lee Bergquist) ((recd 7/9)) OPEN. Reporter requests results of water sampling EPA conducted in early May in central Wisconsin, near Juneau County. DDL not indicated.

R5 will share proposed answers for approval.

Reporter's questions:

I would like to get the results of water sampling EPA conducted in early May in central Wisconsin near Juneau County and an update on how the agency is responding to concerns about water quality in the region.

I have a link to my story

- <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2018/05/04/epa-investigates-possible-groundwater-contamination-central-wisconsin-worries-grow/579422002/>

Main point here is inform the public of your efforts and any followup by the EPA.

Perhaps you could put me in touch with appropriate staffer?

## **PREVIOUSLY SENT TO REPORTER**

*Lee – please attribute responses to an agency spokesperson:*

What prompted the agency to conduct the tests?

EPA is monitoring groundwater after receiving complaints of private drinking water well contamination.

Was the EPA responding to complaints about high nitrate levels in the water, including a report of one mother who said that she was forced to terminate a pregnancy because of a severe birth defect?

EPA has received numerous complaints from citizens in the area.

When do you expect to have results - and what is the next step of the agency after getting the results?

EPA will analyze the results and determine if an environmental problem subject to EPA authority exists.

If the results show high nitrate levels that exceed drinking water standards, what will you do?

EPA will coordinate with state and local agencies to address any problem.

Have you communicated the reason for the trip with Central Sands Dairy, the largest farm in the area?

EPA coordinated the evaluation with state and local authorities but has not contacted any private entities except where access to private property was required to conduct the evaluation.

Please confirm the following facts that EPA personnel shared with Cristi Sullivan-Greening:

**41 bore holes for water sampling - at a shallow depth and deeper depth 60 to 80 feet.**

Samples were taken from depths of 45-49 feet and 30-34 feet.

**The testing will take place from roughly 20th Ave. and 4th street to the Wisconsin River.**

Testing took place West of Lake Pentewell from the Wood County Line to the North and South to 8<sup>th</sup> Steet.

**(In an email, the DNR said a short while ago said that the EPA would be conducting groundwater sampling around Central Sands Dairy's land application fields and production area in Juneau County from April 30-May 4.)**

Lee Bergquist  
Reporter  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
<image001.jpg>

Office: 414.224.2169  
Mobile: 414.588.0244

Francisco Arcaute  
US EPA R5 press office  
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